

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 GUATEM 01139 232354Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----240001 019104 /62
O 232313Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4939

S E C R E T GUATEMALA 1139

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PORS, CASC, GT
SUBJECT: KIDNAPPING OF DUAL NATIONAL US-GUATEMALA CITIZEN

REF: GUATEMALA 1117

1. AS BROL KIDNAPPING CASE DRAGS ON, RISK OF ITS APPEARING IN PRESS GROWN. THUS FAR, THERE HAS BEEN ONLY ONE POSSIBLE INDIRECT REFERENCE INPRESS, IN EL IMPARCIAL OF WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, WHICH REPORTED "RUMOR" OF KIDNAPPING OF UN-IDENTIFIED FINQUERO (LANDOWNER). IN ADDITION, OF COURSE, NOTTEBOHM FAMILY AND OTHER KEY EXECUTIVES IN AGROCOMERCIAL KNOW OF AFFAIR.

2. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING WHEN, HOW OR IN WHAT CONTEXT STORY COULD BREAK, FOLLOWING ARE GENERAL LINES WHICH WE WOULD PROPOSE TO USE IN HANDLING ANY PRESS QUERIES. THE FIRST OPERATING PRINCIPLE WOULD BE TO AVOID MENTIONING THAT COMMERCIAL OFFICER RALPH GRIFFIN IS BROL'S SON-IN-LAW, IN ORDER TO AVOID INVOLVEMENT OF EITHER GRIFFIN OR EMBASSY IN AFFAIR. THERE WOULD BE NO REASON FOR US OR FOR FAMILY TO VOLUNTEER GRIFFIN'S LINK. IF ASKED, WE WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO DEFLECT ANY QUESTIONS BY SAYING IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR EMBASSY TO COMMENT ON WHAT IS A PRIVATE GUATEMALAN AFFAIR AND THAT ANY QUESTIONS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED

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IS OF BROL'S DUAL NATIONALITY INVOLVING AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP. THIS IS NOT KNOWN TO MANY PEOPLE. WE SEE NOTHING TO BE GAINED IN MAKING THIS INFORMATION KNOWN TO THE KIDNAPPERS AND ON THE CONTRARY THERE COULD BE COMPLICATIONS AND RISK IN DOING SO. ACCORDINGLY, IN CONSULTATION WITH BOTH MRS. BROL HERSELF, AS WELL AS PRESIDENTIAL SECURITY CHIEF COLONEL QUINTEROS, WE COULD AGREE NOT TO

VOLUNTEER THIS INFORMATION, ALTHOUGH WE WOULD PRESUMABLY
HAVE TO CONFIRM IT AT SOME POINT IF WE WERE PRESSED.

3. IF ABOVE CONTINGENCY PLANS PRESENT ANY PROBLEMS,
EMBASSY WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED.
BOSTER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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